

FACE Information for Potential Participant in a Fatality Investigation

Hello, my name is Tom Sjostrom. I am a Safety Engineer at the Washington State Department of Labor and Industries. I work for a group at L&I called SHARP (which stands for Safety & Health Assessment & Research for Prevention). SHARP is not part of WISHA. SHARP does occupational health and safety research. Our goal is to prevent workplace injuries and deaths. I am trying to learn more about the worker death at your workplace.

The FACE program is the name of the program that investigates workplace deaths. FACE stands for Fatality Assessment & Control Evaluation. We investigate only a small number of fatalities that occur in Washington State. Most investigations involve deaths that result from a fall from elevation, are machine related, occur in agriculture, or construction, or involve a worker under the age of 20. This is part of a federal research grant.

Investigations focus on finding the underlying cause of the incident. We ask questions only about how the person died. The questions do not include questions about you. For example we ask questions like “How many years did the victim have in their current occupation?” or “Was the victim performing a task that was not part of their normal work duties/tasks?”

There is no penalty for participating or refusing to participate in an investigation. We collect information and data from many resources as part of our investigation. We will not write down your name. Sometimes, the information you provide us identifies you. For example, ‘I was the decedents only co-worker’. All the information we collect is confidential. All the information we receive is protected by law from being released. ([RCW 49.17.210](#)). We do not share the information with WISHA or other parts of L&I. The only people who will have access to the FACE investigation notes are Tom Sjostrom, the FACE Safety Engineer; Peregrin Spielholz, the leader of the FACE Program and Randy Clark, FACE Research Analyst.

From the information we collect, we then develop a report and recommendations. The goal is to get the word out to similar companies so that deaths can be prevented in the future. The report does not include names of people, your employer name, or any other information, which identifies you or your company.

Your participation is complete voluntary. Sometimes people feel uncomfortable about speaking about a workplace death or are worried that their employer will be angry with them. This will not affect your employer’s relationship with the Department of Labor and Industries in any way. If you are uncomfortable talking with us, you can decline to answer any question or withdraw at any time. If this sounds ok, I would like to set up a meeting with you and spend a few moments to review the incident.

If you have any questions, please contact me at any time. My phone number is (360) 902-5655 and my e-mail is sjot235@lni.wa.gov. You can learn more about the FACE program at <http://www.lni.wa.gov/Safety/Research/FACE/default.asp>